

House Resolution 113 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY HALL, OLDSON, HEDDENS, ANDERSON, KEARNS, BEARINGER,
BERRY, OURTH, STECKMAN, SMITH, ABDUL-SAMAD,
GASKILL, COHOON, WESSEL-KROESCHELL, WINCKLER,
STAED, HUNTER, MASCHER, and HANSON

1 A Resolution urging Congress to enact legislation
2 to ensure that students from Iowa and throughout
3 the United States have access to debt-free higher
4 education at public colleges and universities.

5 WHEREAS, the economic competitiveness of the United
6 States and Iowa in the global economy requires a
7 well-educated workforce; and

8 WHEREAS, Iowa ranks 8th in the country in students
9 graduating with the highest debt, with the average
10 statewide debt load for Iowa's public and private
11 college and university graduates at \$29,732; derailing
12 promising futures and diminishing the economic benefit
13 of these graduates' talents; and

14 WHEREAS, current and future young people in Iowa and
15 throughout the rest of the nation should have the same
16 opportunity offered to those who went to college in
17 previous generations, including the ability to attend
18 state colleges and universities without taking on
19 burdensome debt; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2016, higher education is more important
21 than ever because it is an essential step to entering
22 and remaining in the middle class; and

23 WHEREAS, because of the importance of higher
24 education to the nation's economy, the United States
25 and its state governments should expand the opportunity

1 to pursue and attain higher education to more people
2 than had that opportunity in the past; and

3 WHEREAS, public investment in higher education pays
4 off, as evidenced by the facts that the post-World War
5 II G.I. Bill resulted in a 7-to-1 return on investment
6 for our national economy and that workers with college
7 degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less
8 on government services; and

9 WHEREAS, student loan debt saddles the very students
10 who most depend on a college degree to level the
11 economic playing field with a burden that constrains
12 career choices, hurts the credit rating of the
13 students, prevents people from fully participating
14 in the economy by purchasing goods and services, and
15 threatens essential milestones of the American dream
16 — including the purchase of a home or car, starting a
17 family, and saving for retirement; and

18 WHEREAS, a national goal of establishing a
19 debt-free public higher education system would include
20 significant federal aid to states, including Iowa; NOW
21 THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
23 That the Iowa House of Representatives urges Congress
24 to enact legislation affecting students attending
25 public institutions of higher education that does the
26 following:

27 1. Ensures that such students have access to
28 debt-free higher education, meaning students who
29 graduate can do so without debt.

30 2. Supports efforts to increase aid to the states

1 so that states can increase investments in higher
2 education and bring down education costs for students.

3 3. Increases financial aid to students to help
4 cover the total cost of college attendance.

5 4. Encourages innovation by states and institutions
6 of higher education to increase efficiency, lower
7 costs, and enable speedy and less-costly degree
8 completion.

9 5. Reduces the burden of existing student loan
10 debt; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of
12 the House of Representatives shall transmit certified
13 copies of this Resolution to each member of Iowa's
14 congressional delegation.